

## Message Text

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14/61  
ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 L-03 H-02 DHA-02 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /037 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN:PWACKERBARTH  
APPROVED BY ARA/CEN:LCKILDAY  
ARA:GLISTER

----- 053997

R 240315Z JAN 76  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (E.O. AND TAGS OMITTED)

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SHUM GT US

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS: VISIT OF WILLIAM WEPFLER

1. WILLIAM WEPFLER, DIRECTOR FOR LATIN AMERICA OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES, PLANS TO STOP OVER IN GUATEMALA ON JANUARY 30 ENROUTE HOME TO THE U.S. FROM A CHURCH WORLD SERVICE MEETING IN COSTA RICA. WEPFLER'S PURPOSE IN GOING TO GUATEMALA IS TO EXPRESS TO GOG CONCERN OF NCC OVER REPORTED DISAPPEARANCE OF ABOUT THIRTY PERSONS FROM THE LA RESURRECCION IXCAN GRANDE COOPERATIVE IN XALBAL. WEPFLER STATED THAT HE LEARNED OF THE MISSING PERSONS FROM PRESS REPORTS APPEARING IN THE JANUARY 9 EDITION OF LA NACION AND THE DEPOSITIONS OF COOPERATIVE MEMBERS WHICH WERE FORWARDED TO HIM BY A FRIEND IN GUATEMALA. ACCORDING TO THESE REPORTS, A NUMBER OF COOPERATIVE MEMBERS WERE ARRESTED BY GUATEMALAN ARMED FORCES IN A SERIES OF ANTI-GUERRILLA CAMPAIGNS IN XALBAL WHICH BEGAN LAST JULY. ALTHOUGH SOME OF THOSE

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TAKEN INTO CUSTODY HAVE BEEN RELEASED AND OTHERS ARE

STILL UNDER ARREST, A NUMBER OF THOSE ARRESTED HAVE NOT BEEN ACCOUNTED FOR. ADDITIONAL ARRESTS FOLLOWED THE BREAK-UP OF A MEETING OF THE COOPERATIVE'S ASSEMBLY ON DECEMBER 6 AND SOME OF THOSE PERSONS ARE ALSO STILL

UNACCOUNTED FOR. WEPFLER UNDERSTANDS THAT THE WIFE OF ONE OF THE MISSING PERSONS HAS PETITIONED PRESIDENT LAUGERUD FOR THE RELEASE OF HER HUSBAND. WEPFLER WISHES TO REITERATE THAT PETITION IN THE NAME OF THE NCC, EMPHASIZING THAT GUATEMALA IS A SIGNATORY ON THE UN CHARTER ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND THAT GOG HAS STATED THAT IT SEES COOPERATIVES AS PLAYING AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN ITS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. NCC IS INTERESTED IN THIS CASE BECAUSE OF ITS GENERAL CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. NCC IS NOT DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY CONNECTED WITH COOPERATIVE.

2. DEPTOFFS TOLD WEPFLER WE WOULD ADVISE EMBASSY OF HIS TRAVEL PLANS, AND WE SUGGESTED THAT HE CONTACT POLITICAL COUNSELOR UPON HIS ARRIVAL. WEPFLER SAID HE WOULD CALL ON POLITICAL COUNSELOR BUT THAT HE INTENDED TO SEEK APPOINTMENTS WITH GOG OFFICIALS ON HIS OWN. HE INDICATED THAT HE WOULD TRY TO SEE THE PRESIDENT OR SOMEONE IN HIS OFFICE BECAUSE THE PETITION MENTIONED IN PARA 1 WAS DIRECTED TO PRESIDENT LAUGERUD. DEPTOFFS OFFERED TO REQUEST EMBASSY TO ADVISE GOG AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF WEPFLER VISIT AND ITS PURPOSES. SISCO

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** VISITS, MISSING PERSONS, ARRESTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 JAN 1976  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** powellba  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** HUMAN RIGHTS: VISIT OF WILLIAM WEPFLER  
**TAGS:** SHUM, GT, US, NATL COUNCIL OS CHURCHES, (WEPFLER, WILLIAM)  
**To:** GUATEMALA  
**Type:** TE  
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